Mr. I.G. W. White is a Director alternate to Major General (Retd.) Virendra Singh and Shri I. P. S. Anand, Director, Ministry of Commerce is a Director alternate to Shri T.S. Vijayaraghavan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. Shri V.C. Vaidya is a Director alternate to Mr. D.R.F. Finn.

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Meeting of the National Integration Council

*49. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convene a meeting of the National Integration Council to discuss the deteriorating communal situation in the country ; and

(b) if so, by when the meeting is likely to be convened ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) It is proposed to hold the National Integration Council Meeting very shortly. The exact date will be intimated as soon as fixed.

New Textile Policy

*50. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to review the New Textile Policy, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof: and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEX TILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c) Government have set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Abid Hussain, Member, Planning Commission to review the progress of implemen tation of the June 1985 Textile Policy and to assess its impact on different sectors of the Textile eco nomy. A review of the Textile Policy would be undertaken after receipt of the report of this Commi ttee,

IMF Loan to meet External Debt

*51. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state :

(a) what is country's external debt at present ;

(b) whether Government are considering for another IMF loan to get rid of external debt ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) The external debt outstanding of the country is estima ted to be Rs. 68831 crores at the end of March, 1989.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

चाय के मूल्य में वृद्धि

*52. श्री राम जेठमलानी : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल में देश के विशेष रूप से दक्षिणी क्षेत्र में चाय के उत्पादन में गिरावट के कारण

देश में चाय के मूल्यों में भारी वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार देश के बाजार में चाय के मूल्यों को कम करने के लिए चाय के निर्यात पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके कारण क्या हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह) : (क) वर्ष 1989 की शुरुआत से ही भारतीय नीलामियों में चाय की कीमतों में वृद्धि होने की प्रवृत्ति परिलक्षित हो रही है जिसका मुख्य कारण दक्षिण भारत में जाड़े के महीनों में उत्तर-पूर्व मानसून के न आने के साथ-साथ उत्तर भारत के कुछ चाय उपजकर्ता क्षेत्रों में प्रतिकूल जलवायु की परिस्थितियों का होना है ।

(ख) और (ग) सरकार चाय के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के किसी भी प्रस्ताव पर विचार नहीं कर रही है । चाय के संबंध में सरकार का उद्देश्य इसे घरेलू बाजार में उचित कीमतों पर उपलब्ध करने के साथ-साथ चाय के निर्यात से अधिकाधिक विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करना है ।

Supply of cotton yarn at subsidised rate

*53. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of handloom weavers recently met him to putforth their demand for the supply of cotton yarn at a subsidised rate so as to save the handloom industry ; and

(b) it so, what are the details in this regard and what steps have been taken by Government to meet their demand?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(i) The main demands made by the delegation are :—

(1) Statutory levy of 20% of the hank yarn from the private/state sector mill and distribution through agencies like NHDC, Handloom Export Promotion Council, State Handloom Apex Bodies and Corporation etc. ;

(2) 10% subsidy on the rates of cotton hank yarn at the rates that prevailed in January 1989 ; and

(3) Effective steps to enforce the Policy of Reservation.

(ii) Operation of levy system of procurement with its operational difficulties does not appear to be necessary as their is no over all shortage of yarn and the temporary shortage of specific counts can be overcome by timely intervention of NHDC As regards subsidising cotton hank as demanded in (2) above, there are many practical difficulties in resorting to such an arrangement because wider diffierential thereon on prices of hank yarn and cone yarn could lead to diversion of hank yarn to other than handloom sector.

(iii) In pursuance of provisions of new Textile Policy, 1985 Government has enacted the Handloom